

**REMARKS**

Claims herein remain 1-20, of which claims 1, 10, 16, 23, and 26 are in an independent form. By this amendment, all of the claims herein have been amended (either directly or indirectly) to a form deemed allowable.

A primary feature of the Akiyama patent is the provision of task blocks and the execution of multiple tasks separately controlled, not by the task switch, but by a scheduler (col. 3, line 50; col. 6, line 27, etc.).

As distinctly claimed herein, in applicant's system, each service is scheduled for execution (is) written at least one of the preassigned time slices ---."

As a further distinction, "--- services are scheduled for execution independently of any foreground tasks;"

The distinct operating philosophies of the two systems for enhancing task scheduling are thus apparent.

Independence from foreground tasks, as claimed herein, enables interrupt services to run at scheduled times.

While Burns is recognized to teach initiating a processing thread for background processing, the distinct operation of a background processing thread is not seen to be compatible with the Akiyama system in so far as task scheduling is concerned. That is, the provision of background processing is distinct from the limitation of the claims herein where scheduling is independent of foreground tasks.

Whereas Fletcher mentions ranking according to priority and resources, the claims herein are deemed allowable by reason of other recited element combinations. Accordingly, the claims herein are submitted to be patentably distinct and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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